

**FOREWORD**  
**BY GREAT-GRANDSON, HOWARD E. WALL**

All my life, beginning as a small child, I have been captivated by the accomplishments of William Madison Wall. He died in 1869, 60 years before I was born, 15 years before my Father, Cecil Isaac Wall, was born, and when my Grandfather, Isaac Oliver Wall, was 18 years of age. Grandfather died when I was three years old and when Father was 48 years of age. Father died when I was 17.

Father had learned much about William from his Father, Isaac Oliver, and spoke of him often as we worked in the garden, with the animals, and as we built and repaired homes and small buildings. Dad loved William and passed that love and appreciation on to me and other family members and friends.

William was a courageous man as is borne out by his many heroic feats, his willingness to serve as a soldier, peacemaker, peace officer, and pioneer. He was spiritual and committed enabling him to serve as a branch president in Ramus, Illinois when slightly over 20 years of age, and as one of the first bishops in Provo beginning on the day the church was first organized there. He was president of the New South Wales Mission in Australia, and later as presiding elder of Wasatch County and Wallsburg. He was a good strategist and engineer as evidenced by his performance as a Lieutenant in the Nauvoo Legion, as head of special army detachments sent to make peace with the Indians and Mexicans, as a builder of the road through Provo Canyon, a builder of forts and community buildings in Heber and Wallsburg for protection from hostile Indians and in colonizing and developing Utah.

However, after much thought about William and his life and times I am most impressed that he was able to overcome his early background and experience to become an honorable, living, good-natured, devoted servant of the Lord. He was born during trying times for the colonists in North Carolina, lost his mother at age seven,

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moved several hundred miles to Illinois when he was nine, lost contact with his father at age ten, separated from his three brothers and placed by his relatives with a mean bondsman causing him to run away. How much time he spent on his own, sleeping in hay stacks, eating what he could find, being rejected by those living a higher standard we do not know.

It seems to me that one of the most positive experiences of the young lad's life was when he was welcomed into the Wayne County, Illinois home of William Haws and his family. Wayne treated him as one of his children, and they had a wonderful companionship. He obviously was an obedient and resourceful lad as at the age of 19 he asked for and received the hand of Mr. Haws' daughter, Nancy, in marriage. At the age of 21 he, Nancy, and the Haws family joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and shortly thereafter in 1843 the Prophet Joseph Smith called William to be president of a branch of the Church in Ramus. At the time there were only two stakes of the LDS Church: Nauvoo and Ramus.

In 1845 William's mentor, Mr. Haws, died and William and Nancy took Mrs. Haws into their home to live with them until she died in 1863 in Provo, Utah.

Considering the disastrous lives of many young orphans who are mistreated and live on their own for a year or two roaming the countryside, either in William's time or today, it is surprising that this young man could maintain his emotional stability, physical prowess, good nature, and develop spirituality, humility, love, and commitment to the Lord and his fellow man.

I revere and love William for how he turned adverse circumstances into positive action, looked forward, rather than backward, and served others rather than sought retribution for misdeeds against him. He was no doubt strengthened and guided by the Lord in his time of need. My appreciation of William has made him the model for my life and made me a better person than I otherwise might have been.

My interest in and affection for him has caused a burning desire within me to assemble all the factual data that exists about him and tie it together with inspiration and reason and leave as a tribute to this great man. When our cousin, Garth D. Mecham, produced his wonderful book, *William Madison Wall, His Life and His Family*, in the early 1960s I felt somewhat relieved. However, as time marched on, it was obvious that more information was available, and more research on William's ancestry must be done. I looked forward to retirement to begin this work in earnest. While doing some volunteer work at Brigham Young University, I met W. Dee Halverson, an author who

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had done much work for the church and who expressed to me his love for William Madison Wall, the first Presiding Elder in Wasatch. Dee said that he and his family had been going to Wallsburg for picnics and enjoyment since his days as a student at BYU. He was pleased to learn that William was my great-grandfather, and remarked that he had always wanted to research and write about him. I was experiencing serious illness at the time, which turned out to be cancer, and questioned if I would be able to compile a worthy work on William. Dee and I entered into an agreement for him to do the research and writing, and for me to do whatever I could to assist.

I am pleased with Dee's efforts and hope they will bring to the readers of this book a greater appreciation of William and added knowledge to what they already know of him. I pray the research on William's ancestors proves to be definitive, and that he is as pleased to be united in an Eternal Family with them as you and I expect to be with William, his wives, and their honorable posterity.

This work has been greatly assisted by numerous family members who have contributed pictures, facts, legends, and leads. Garth D. Mecham could not have been more helpful and encouraging of this work. He gave carte blanche permission to use information from his book as we wanted. It pleased us greatly to encompass the text portion of his book, to make it available to the many people who have been unable to obtain a copy since it went out of print. Also, William James Mortimer granted permission to use factual information from his 1961 publication, *How Beautiful Upon the Mountains* prepared for the Wasatch County Daughters of the Utah Pioneers.

It is my hope that family research will continue unabated on the Wall line, and that more information will become available to give rise to more writings on William Madison Wall to help quench the thirst for knowledge of this great progenitor. I look forward to associating with him and you descendants throughout the eternities.

## **PREFACE**

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On August 10, 1996 a sculpture was unveiled in Heber City Park to celebrate the pioneering contributions of William Madison Wall. The life-sized bronze statue entitled "Journey's End" captured the spirit of the man and his accomplishments. Among those gathered at the ceremony were scores of William Madison Wall's descendants along with civic and church authorities.

One of the purposes of this history is to bring together as many of the known facts and stories as possible associated with this great man. The compilers want to expand upon the monumental work *William Madison Wall: His Life and His Family* which was researched and written in the 1960's by Garth D. Mecham and W. Reed Nuttall. Because the book is now out of print and its information desired by newer Wall generations, much of the historical narrative of that book has been included (Appendix 2) in this volume. Also included are numerous full-text documents pertaining to William Madison Wall that have been meticulously researched by his great-granddaughter, Darlene Wall Harris.

Another purpose of this book is to shed new light on the preceding generations of the direct lineage of William Madison Wall. The recent (1997) publication and of to the Scottish Parish Church Records from the early 1500s up to 1854 and other colonial emigration documents have opened up new possibilities in establishing the most probable origins of the earliest Wall ancestry. While much research has been done on this lineage, much more remains to be done. The conclusions documented in the first chapters of this history are based upon the latest documentation available and represent the considered opinions of the researchers. The full story of the emigration and life of the first Wall ancestor of this line has yet to be written. It is for the coming generations, who like us will stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before as